

November 2, 1968

Dear Harold,

This time I'm sure you just must have thought I'd gone the way of all flesh! Well, not really . . . but life has been hectic. We did finally have a beautiful typically Maine Summer - lots of sunshine and great beaching.

Perhaps I had written you earlier this year that my father was quite ill with arteriosclerosis (sp?); his condition deteriorated badly in mid-June and he was hospitalized. He had the finest of care but it was hopeless, and he died on August 18th. So our summer was not really the usual carefree time that we've always enjoyed.

The Political Scene has been "something else" this year, hasn't it? What a yearful of surprises and contradictions and fear and uncertainty. It's a coincidence isn't it that My Senator is running against Your Governor for the veep spot? And I must say, I think I've got the better man!!! At this moment in history, predicting is difficult, what with the latest polls closing the Nixon-Humphrey gap to fewer than 5 percentage points. And then there's always Wallace to contend with. I have read every available word in The New Republic, The Nation, Time, Newsweek, Life, Look, the Boston Globe, etc., in an effort to keep myself informed . . . but (except possibly for Muskie) it seems to me that the American Voter has little from which to choose, unless he is misguided enough to go for Little George! By the time this reaches you, it may be history, so I shall not continue.

Please up-date me on your writing activities. What has been published that I can get my hands on? What IS the story on Big Jim Garrison? I see absolutely nothing in my reading about the "situation" but that doesn't mean nothing's happening, I'm sure.

I guess I wrote you that my New York City son, daughter-in-law and two children are now living in Cleveland? It was a good promotion for Bruce (Pan Am) and they all adore Shaker Heights, where the kids are thrilled to death to have a lawn and trees, instead of concrete playgrounds as they had in NYC. If you're ever in Cleveland and near the Pan Am office (15 Public Square) do drop in and say hello - he has heard much about you and your books from me, of course!

I am taking the Creative Writing course at the University this fall - it's a one-semester thing and only about 14 in the group. So far I have turned out a descriptive essay about my dog; a whimsical political column (a la Art Buchwald) which the local newspaper was only too happy to put in its Voice of the People thing last week and which I shall try to remember to enclose; and a short story about a would-be assassin with an ironic twist or two at the end - not very good, I fear! But turned in to the prof and not returned yet.

Well, Harold, I trust all is OK by the Weisbergs, and that you and/or Lillian will send me all the news that's fit to print from the home state of Spiro Who!

Regards, as always,

*Anne B.*

PS: Forgot to tell you that The Maine Digest accepted for publication one of my themes written last winter; it was "You, Too, Can Be A Baseball Buff" and was only intended as amusement-type reading. But seeing something of mine in print was a thrill; and the Digest goes outside the state, so I was pleased, altho underpaid!!!